



644 – WETLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Name:	Farm No./Tract No.:
Address:	Field Number(s):
Assisted by:	Financial Assistance Program:
Date:	Contract Number:

Practice Purpose: To maintain, develop, or improve wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, fur-bearers, or other wetland dependent or associated flora and fauna.

Habitat type: ☐ Tidal Wetland ☐ Nontidal Wetland ☐ Pond ☐ Shallow Water Area ☐ Riparian Corridor
☐ Other _____

The area will be managed to provide habitat for the following wildlife: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Dabbling Ducks ☐ Geese ☐ Shorebirds, Wading Birds ☐ Songbirds ☐ Fur-bearers
☐ Frogs, Turtles ☐ Other _____

Permit required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Associated Practices

This practice may be applied alone or in combination with other supporting Delaware conservation practice standards to provide the following habitat elements: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Food for the desired wildlife species
☐ Cover for nesting, feeding, resting, protection, and/or travel corridors ☐ Water

☐ The following practices are needed, and have been or will be implemented: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Conservation Cover (327)
☐ Pond (378)
☐ Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
☐ Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
☐ Shallow Water Development and Management (646)
☐ Structure for Water Control (587)
☐ Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
☐ Wetland Restoration (657)
☐ Other practices (specify):
☐ No associated practices are needed.

Practice Specifications

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management Layout

- ☐ Practice location(s) is/are shown on the conservation plan map.

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Management Specifications
<p>Management requirements are provided as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fact sheet(s) or wildlife habitat management plan (attached)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other specifications (described below)</p>
<p>Water Level Management</p>
<p>Natural – Allow natural precipitation and drying cycles to control the water level.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will be used on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Optional on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Not used</p>
<p>Active – Utilize water control structures and/or water pumps to control the water level. (check all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will be used on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Optional on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Not allowed/used</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Drawdown gradually starting: _____ over: _____ weeks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Re-flood gradually starting: _____ over: _____ weeks, to manage food access at water depth: _____ inches</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Return control structure to normal (full) position no later than: _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For drawdown with box inlets, remove a board and wait a few days before removing the next one. For pipe inlets, rotate the pipe downward a few inches at a time. Reverse the procedure for gradual re-flooding. The earlier the water control structure is set to the normal (full) position, the greater the potential to capture runoff and prevent nutrients and sediments from leaving the site. Leave the site flooded through the winter.
<p>Vegetation Management</p>
<p>Natural – Allow natural succession to occur; no active management or maintenance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will be used on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Optional on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Not used</p>
<p>Perennial Herbaceous – Maintain perennial grasses, sedges, rushes, and other herbaceous plants to provide food and cover.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will be used on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Optional on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Not used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If needed, spot mow or burn occasionally to reduce encroachment of trees and shrubs. Flash grazing by livestock may also be used.
<p>Trees/Shrubs – Maintain a predominance of trees, shrubs, and other woody plants to provide food and cover.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Will be used on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Optional on _____ acres <input type="checkbox"/> Not used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If needed, less desirable species (e.g., sweetgum, red maple) may be selectively removed or girdled.

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Vegetation Management (continued)

Moist Soil Management – Disturbance to encourage naturally-occurring annual moist-soil plants.

☐ Will be used on _____ acres ☐ Optional on _____ acres ☐ Not allowed/used

- Every three years, lightly disk the pool area at the start of the growing season (after drawdown).
- Do not fertilize the moist-soil area. Natural moist-soil plants do not need additional fertilizer.

Annual Crops – Plant food plots or leave areas of unharvested grain crops to provide food for wildlife.

☐ Will be used on _____ acres ☐ Optional on _____ acres ☐ Not allowed/used

Plant the following annual crops for waterfowl: (specify site prep, planting method, species or mix, and lbs/ac)

- Fertilize only if needed, based on a soil test.
- To the extent possible, minimize the use of pesticides on the site. Most annuals weeds (except for noxious weeds or invasive plants) are acceptable and are readily utilized as food by waterfowl.
- Utilize water level management to control waterfowl access to seed. Mowing or knocking-down of mature seed-bearing plants in areas where waterfowl will be hunted is considered baiting and is illegal under federal and state law.

Crop Residue Management – Flood residue from harvested crops for waterfowl use.

☐ Will be used on _____ acres ☐ Optional on _____ acres ☐ Not used

- Plant and harvest conventional row crops, as usual.
- To the extent possible, minimize the use of pesticides on the site.

Additional Recommendations/Notes

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Operation and Maintenance (check all that apply)		
<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Inspect the management area periodically (at least annually) to determine whether the desired vegetation is present in suitable quantity, quality, and distribution to meet the objectives of the project.</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Inspect all embankments and structures at least once per year and after every major storm. Promptly remove trash and obstructions, fix leaks, and make other repairs as needed.</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Maintain buffers to reduce sedimentation and provide wildlife cover. On grassy buffers and embankments, spot mow or burn infrequently (not more than once every 2 to 3 years) if needed to reduce encroachment of trees and shrubs. To protect ground-nesting wildlife, do not mow or burn between April 15 and August 15.</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Control noxious weeds and other invasive plants by spot treatment, using mechanical methods or approved herbicides. Control of noxious weeds is required by state law. Noxious weed control can be conducted during the primary nesting season (April 15 to August 15), but may require prior approval if the site is enrolled in a financial assistance program. Contact your local weed control specialist concerning recommendations for spot-treating the weed problem.</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Deter colonization of undesirable plants (e.g., cocklebur, phragmites, cattails, red maple, sweetgum) by conducting regular site inspections and spot treatment (using mechanical methods or approved herbicides). If undesirable plants become established, disk 2 or 3 times by mid-summer, then immediately flood (if possible) until the following spring.</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance animals such as beavers and muskrats may be removed in accordance with state game regulations. Geese can be discouraged by minimizing areas of open water and promoting the growth of tall vegetation in the wetland and buffer.</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Avoid noisy activities, such as mowing or use of recreational vehicles, in or near the wetland when waterfowl are present. To the extent possible, do not allow livestock and other domestic animals to have uncontrolled access to the site.</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Avoid the use of pesticides on the site to prevent harm to wildlife that use the wetland area.</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable uses (e.g., flash grazing, cropping, timber production, hunting, nature preserve, etc.) and time of year or frequency of use restrictions, if any (list):</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other requirements, or follow-up needed (describe):</div>		
Plan Approval		
Certified Planner Signature	Title	Date
Plan Received and Accepted		
Client Signature	Date	
Certification of Practice Completion		
This Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management Practice has been implemented and meets the requirements of Delaware NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 644. Any changes to the planned practice are noted in Practice Specifications.		
Certified Planner Signature	Title	Date